

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to an Office Action mailed October 24, 2003. In the Office Action, claims 3, 5-6, 9, 11-12, 15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Richards (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,957). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Herein, claims 3, 5, 9 and 15-17 have been amended. Claims 19-26 have been added. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

As the Examiner is aware, Richards teaches a decryption process in which a Segment Key (SK) is encrypted with a customer code (CUSTOMER_CODE), namely a serial number that is permanently assigned to the customer's set-top box. *See column 6, line 61 to column 7, line 11.* The content (CONTENT_A) is encrypted with the SK. The encrypted Segment Key [SK]CUSTOMER_CODE and the encrypted content [CONTENT_A]SK are sent to the set-top box. Since the CUSTOMER_CODE is pre-loaded onto the set-top box, it is used to recover the SK. Thereafter, the set-top box recovers the CONTENT_A using the SK.

As described on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that "[SK]CUSTOMER_CODE" constitutes the "authorization code" of the claimed invention, "CUSTOMER_CODE" constitutes the "user key" and "SK" constitutes the "local key". Applicant respectfully disagrees and respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established for the pending claims because Richards fails to describe or suggest each and every limitation as set forth in the claims.

More specifically, as one illustrative example, the local key is based on a *programmable* user key. For Richards, however, Applicant respectfully submits that the CUSTOMER_CODE is not programmable, but is a static value stored within and unique to the set-top box. In addition, as another illustrative example, the authorization code of the claimed invention is used to grant access to the user key (e.g., grants a right to duplicate and transfer the local key to another CA device). This limitation is generally set forth in claims 9 and new claims 21-26. For Richards, however, the [SK]CUSTOMER_CODE provides no access privileges as set forth in the claims.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection.

Conclusion

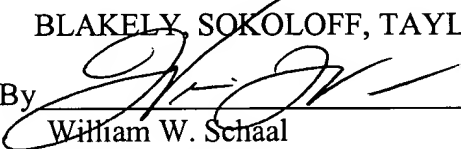
In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/26/04

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1/26/04